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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

BUILD NEW CHANNEL FOR I HO AND SHU HO

The I Ho and its companion, the Shu Ho, which flow southward from Shantung into northern Kiangsu, were largely responsible for the inundation in 1949 of some 3,650 square miles of rich farm land. They help create the long-standing, serious problem of the Huai Ho basin which has had no adequate outlet to the sea. To solve this urgent drainage problem so as to conserve the productivity of this frequently flooded region and simultaneously provide relief in the form of labor for the millions of flood victims, the People's governments of the affected areas undertook the construction of a new channel.

Party, civil, and military officials of nine hsiens in Northern Kiangsu combined their efforts and resources. In August 1949, they sent out some 200 surveyors to plan the project, and in October and November, they launched a popular movement to mobilize the people for the undertaking. The new channel (see attached sketch) starts at a point on the I Ho south of the Lung-hai Railroad near the village of Chi-chi, leads southward to and through the Lo-ma Hu, thence eastward to the Shu Ho, whose channel is enlarged and improved, and passes on the north side of the hsien city of Shu-yang, after which it proceeds in a nearly straight line eastward to enter the sea at the mouth of the Kuan Ho, near the town of Ch'en-chia-chiang.

The total length, which includes considerable excavation of rock in crossing a ridge of hills, is over 200 kilometers. Over 300,000 laborers have been employed, and when the project is completed about a year from now, over a million persons will have been used.

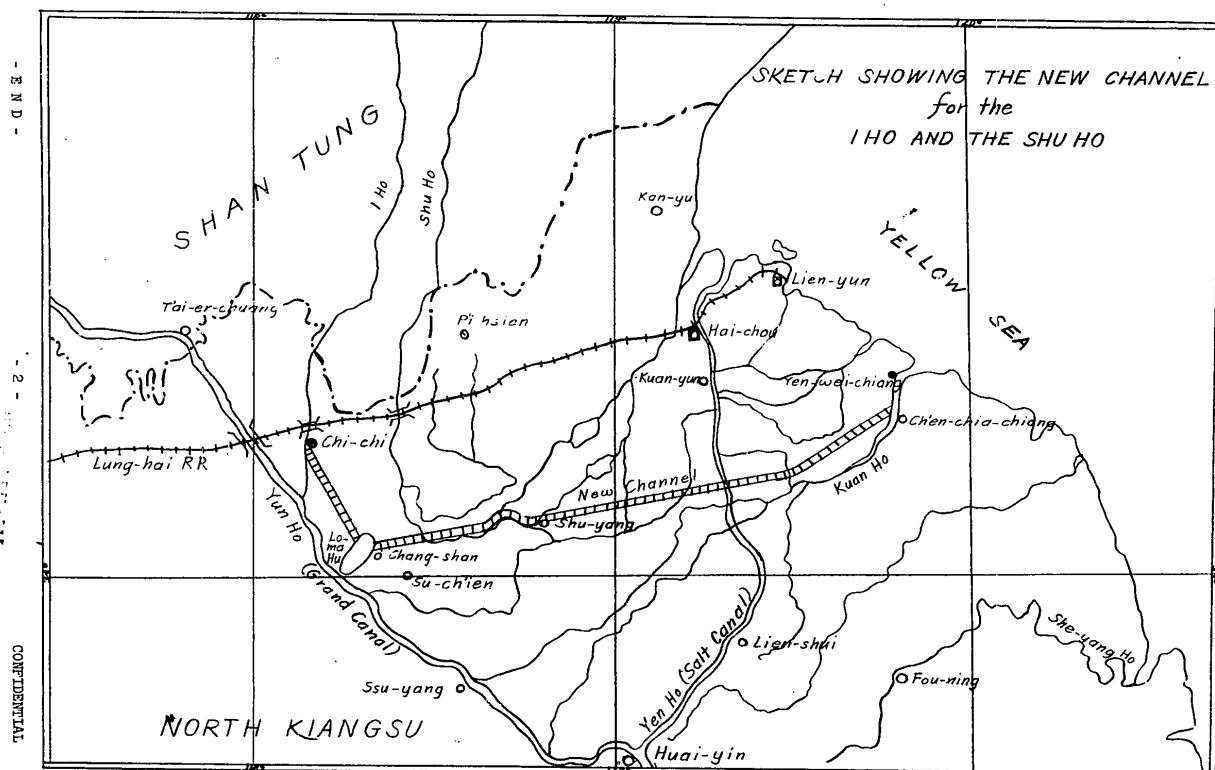
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